

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Planning & Environment Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Thursday, October 6th, 2011**

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Sarah Blyth, Chair
Raj Hundal, Vice Chair
Stuart Mackinnon
Aaron Jasper
Loretta Woodcock

Park Board Staff

Peter Kuran	Deputy General Manager
Danica Djurkovic	Acting Director, Planning & Operations
Octavio Silva	Manager, Business Development
Judy Andersen	Supervisor, Recreation Services
Kevin Tuerlings	Recorder

Delegations:

- Gayle Uthoff, Vancouver Sports Network
- Cynthia Low, Britannia Community Services Centre Society
- Penny Street, Britannia Community Services Centre Society

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm, with the following agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of the July 7, 2011 Meeting
2. The Commemorative Naming of Percy Norman Room at Hillcrest Centre
3. Cynthia Low from the Britannia Community Services Centre Society to present their Strategic Master Plan

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Thursday, July 7, 2011 were adopted as circulated.

2. The Commemorative Naming of Percy Norman Room at Hillcrest Centre

Staff presented on the application received from the Riley Park Community Centre Association to name the special events room at Hillcrest Aquatic Centre after the late Percy Norman.

Percy Norman was highly involved in the Vancouver swimming scene for a number of decades, and was considered one of Canada's foremost authorities on swimming and diving. His career highlights include coaching the 1936 Canadian Olympic swim team, as well as the Canadian team at the 1954 Commonwealth games that won 6 medals.

The room will be located on the main concourse level of the Hillcrest Aquatic Centre, in a high traffic area. It will accommodate meetings, special events, birthdays and other gatherings. Staff has spoken with the Norman family who are very supportive of the initiative and the recognition of the name and legacy of Percy Norman. A bronze plaque will be put in place as part of the official opening ceremony on October 29th, pending approval from the Board.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Committee:

- Gail Uthoff, Vancouver Sports Network

The following is a summary of the foregoing delegations:

- Supports this proposal and is glad that Percy Norman be recognized for his achievements and all that he did for Vancouver aquatics.
- Is in favour of at least naming a room in the centre after Percy Norman.

Discussion

A member of the Committee asked what the capacity of the room that is to be named is. Staff replied that approximately twenty people can fit comfortably in the room.

A member of the Committee asked if the naming process for an indoor space is different than the naming process of an outdoor space, such as a park. Staff answered that the two naming processes are different.

A member of the Committee asked at what age Percy Norman passed away and how. Staff answered that he was 57 years old and had died of a heart attack.

The Committee endorsed the recommendation to come to the October 17th Board meeting.

At this time Commissioner Jasper left the meeting.

3. Cynthia Low from the Britannia Community Services Centre Society to present their Strategic Master Plan

The delegations presented on the Britannia Community Services Centre Society's Strategic Master Plan, a project that has been in the planning stage for approximately 6 years. The plan involved a number of partners including the School Board, the Park Board, the Library and the City.

In 2007, the Britannia Board of Management developed a Facilities Master Plan and submitted it to the City Capital Plan for 2009-2011, though it was not accepted based on deficits in the planning process and product, as well as a focus on immediate program needs versus long-term needs.

This proposed Strategic Master Plan is intended to identify trends of community needs over the next 10 to 15 years, and is based on demographic data, socioeconomic trends, and the condition of facilities, the latter of which was based on the Vancouver School Board's facility assessment.

The proposed plan would aim to change the current conglomerate of buildings into a single streamlined complex and ensure a certain level of openness, which would make staffing and overseeing the facility much easier. Key design principles that would help achieve this are a main entrance on Commercial Drive, preserving current view corridors, and striving to create iconic public spaces that promote social inclusion. The revamp would also address the need for changes that suit the increase in older patrons, parents, and student population.

The development is intended to be a phased project, with the final complex being approximately 12,972 square metres (140,000 sq. ft.), which is larger than a typical community centre, and would feature gyms, an arena, indoor/outdoor community pool, various meeting rooms, arts and culture programs, and social gathering spaces. The pool would be the first planned phase, with a number of possible sites on the Britannia grounds for construction to take place.

The delegation is asking the Committee to bring the proposal to the Board for approval of the Strategic Master Plan vision and design principles to allow the Park Board staff to work on the plan alongside the Britannia Community Services Centre Society and other stakeholders.

Discussion

A member of the Committee asked if Britannia prefers a single representative entity over another to control the majority of their operations since there are so many jurisdictions overlapping each other at the centre. The delegation answered that the current partner configuration has worked fine up until this point, though there has been a lot of work done to have the partners sit down and speak about moving toward a single, shared goal.

A member of the Committee asked how the multi-phased project will connect in the end if buildings are constantly being removed, moved and erected. The delegation answered that they have been assured by planners that it is possible to build onto where the pool will be built, creating a seamless transition from one building to the other.

A member of the Committee asked how the current buildings fare in terms of seismic performance. The delegation answered that many of the current buildings fare very

poorly, and would not hold up in the case of an earthquake. Other buildings would fare better, though the planned development would be built to withstand seismic activity.

A member of the Committee asked who has been paying for the feasibility studies, and who keeps the surplus revenue. The delegation answered that City has been paying for the feasibility studies and that Britannia Community Services Centre keeps the surpluses, although in their agreement the City has very clear revenue expectations that must be met.

A member of the Committee asked what the cost would be if the entire site were to be developed as planned. The delegation responded that it depends on the final Master Plan and phasing, but the cost would be approximately \$50 to \$60 million for a 13,000 square metre (140,000 sq. ft.) development.

A member of the Committee asked if the plan serves enough purpose for the surrounding neighbourhood, and if the City sees any additional options to the planned development, such as housing. The delegation answered that there are no plans to allow housing on the site. The Vancouver School Board owns most of the land, so the land should continue serving public purposes. East Vancouver does not have a lot of green space, and neither does this site in relation to its 18 acre size, so it is important to provide more open spaces to the neighbourhood.

A member of the Committee asked if the redeveloped pool will be competing with the nearby Hillcrest Aquatic Centre. The delegation replied that aquatic services review shows that a pool designed according to the planned development will not directly compete with the Hillcrest pool, and should not affect the existing patronage.

The Committee endorsed the proposed vision and design principles of a Strategic Master Plan to come to a future Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Danica Djurkovic, Acting Director,
Planning & Operations

Commissioner Sarah Blyth,
Chair